

Seed is such an integral part of agriculture and we tend to take it for granted or overlook its crucial role in agricultural production and crop improvement. One of SANSOR's focus areas is capacity building in the seed industry. For graduates, there are many sought after career opportunities in the seed industry, including the following fields of study, <https://www.sansor.org>

PLANT BREEDER

Plant breeding is the science of changing the traits of plants in order to create improved or unique varieties. These improved varieties can have better yields, have improved disease resistance, be tolerant to harsh environmental conditions and appeal to consumers.



KEY ASPECTS OF THIS JOB

- Selecting genetic traits for a breeding programme in the greenhouse and field
- Making various crosses over a period of time
- Recording, monitoring and evaluation of trials
- Interaction with a multi-disciplinary team



PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Enjoy growing crops and developing something new
- Are able to work with large amounts of numerical data
- Have a good knowledge of breeding principles
- Have the ability to plan ahead and are patient
- Enjoy travelling and a variety of activities in their daily work
- Are aware of trends in the environment



QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED

- Senior Certificate
 - Mathematics and Physical Science
 - APS score of 26 – 32 (APS score excludes Life Orientation)
- BScAgric (4 years)/BSc Genetics or Molecular Cell Biology
- Honours (1 year – optional)
- MSc in Plant Breeding/BSc Genetics or Molecular Cell Biology



OPTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

PhD in Plant Breeding/Genetics or Molecular Cell Biology

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Seed and biotechnology companies, government or universities, cooperatives.



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